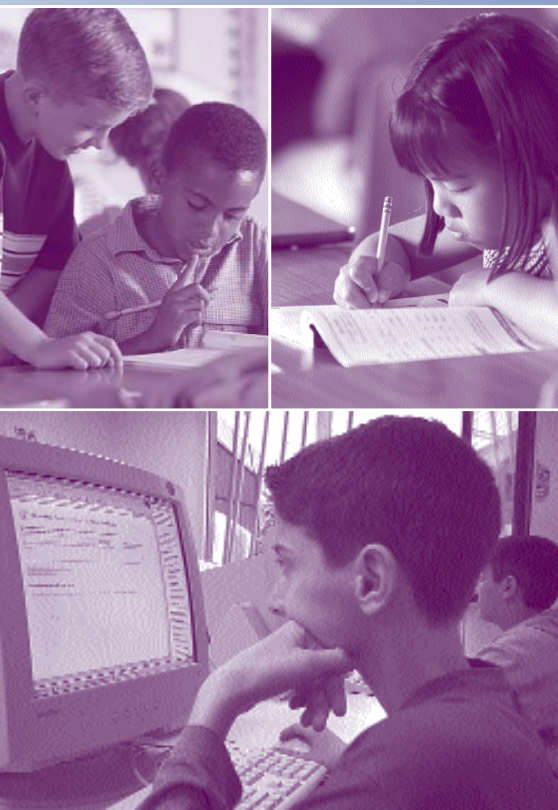


State Representative **Carolene Mays**



Session Report



Since the 2005 session came to a close, we have been waiting to see which bills would be signed into law by Governor Mitch Daniels. With all the bill signings and vetoes complete, inside is a review of some of the major legislation that will become law.

INDIANA'S NEW BUDGET

School Funding Cuts and Increased Property Taxes



This year I voted against the state budget because it makes drastic funding cuts to local school districts and puts Indiana's future at risk. If we expect Indiana to have a bright future then education must be a top priority. Under this budget, school districts, including those in Indianapolis, will be forced to reduce the number of classroom teachers and cut important educational programs. The end result will be an increase in class size causing students to lose valuable one-on-one instruction. Voting against this budget was my way of stressing that I believe in our children and will fight for their future success.

In addition to cutting education, the new budget will also take a step backward for working families. By reducing state support for property tax relief, homeowners

can expect the largest property tax hike in state history.

Renters will also be affected by this increase as apartment complexes are forced to pay more in property taxes. For the first time since I have been elected to public office, I believe the leaders of our state want to raise, not lower property taxes. This sets a terrible precedent for future budget sessions.

The bottom line is that this budget is not honestly balanced and in fact takes money away from children and homeowners to fund government spending. It will remain my goal to support responsible, meaningful legislation that will make Indiana a better place to live. I think that it is a shame the legacy of this session will be the passage of a budget that turns its back on the future of Indiana.

Daylight-Saving Time

By now, almost everyone in Indiana has heard the news that Daylight-Saving Time was passed by both chambers and signed into law following this year's legislative session. There were countless votes taken on this subject and even more opinions about the timing and implementation of it. Daylight-Saving Time will take affect in April of next year.

Joining the rest of the country in observing Daylight-Saving Time will help Indiana in a number of ways. It will simplify business dealings with companies which are out of state, and may even enhance Indiana's ability to attract new development and jobs as a result.

The only question that remains is that of which time zone Indiana will be in, because the law as it was

passed required the Federal Department of Transportation to hold hearings on the location of the boundary between the Eastern and Central Time Zones.

I feel confident that whichever time zone is decided upon, it will ease the confusion that has plagued our residents and visitors alike, with questions about what time it is, in various parts of the state.



Rep. Mays and Rep. Gerald Torr (R-Carmel) discuss Daylight-Saving Time.

Economic Development

Several initiatives passed this session that will keep the Indianapolis economy moving in the right direction. House Bill 1120 contained provisions that will finance a new stadium and convention center in downtown Indianapolis. The bill also extends valu-



able economic development tools so our city can continue to attract good paying jobs.

Though the legislation that passed this year is important for the future of our city, we must make sure that the growth does not stop

downtown. The economy and jobs must also be developed in our area. In 2004 the City of

Indianapolis and the State of Indiana designated the Lafayette Square neighborhood as a Community Revitalization Enhancement District. I worked on and passed legislation that allowed this unique district to be created. Already, this area is home to a new 16 screen movie theater and food store. We have only seen the beginning of this area's potential and expect to see more development in years to come.

As your State Representative I will always work to make sure that the neighborhoods of the Northwest side get their fair share.

Indiana small businesses will face a friendlier regulatory environment, thanks to a new law that gives them a voice in the regulatory process. House Bill 1822, which I co-authored, requires state agencies to consider the effects of new and current administrative rules and regulations on small business. This legislation constitutes a major victory for small businesses by giving them long-overdue relief from burdensome state rules and regulations.

Public Safety Legislation

This session I supported several pieces of legislation that will make our families safer. To protect children we passed Senate Bill 525 authorizing the state to seek a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for a convicted sex offender who commits a sex offense against a child. I also voted for a measure that will require a person who is convicted more than once for possessing child pornography to register as a sex offender.



On the administrative level I worked hard to win approval for an additional 400 case workers and an increase in the educational requirements for the Department of Child Services.

In addition, changes were made to Indiana Law allowing the surviving spouse and children of Indiana State Police officers who are killed in the line of duty to receive health care coverage.

Rep. Mays debates safety legislation in the House of Representatives.

Contact

Representative

Carolene Mays



Office:

232-9600

Address:

200 W. Washington St
Indianapolis IN 46204

Online:

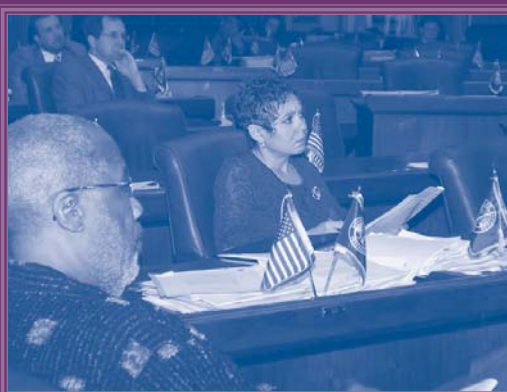
H94@in.gov
www.in.gov/H94

*Sign-up on my website
to receive email updates*

2005 Session Highlights



Rep. Mays reviews proposed legislation at her desk in the House chamber.



Rep. Mays listens to testimony during a House committee hearing in the chamber.

Representative Carolene Mays

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis IN 46204

Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indiana
House of
Representatives